

## DPS PLANS UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN TROOPER OVERTIME PAY

JACKSON, Mississippi – The Department of Public Service plans to adjust its pay scales so Troopers can earn overtime at higher rates, in furtherance of the commissioner's discretion to manage the agency.

DPS Commissioner Steve Simpson said he is asking the State Personnel Board to reclassify state Troopers hourly rate of pay and plans to use the \$2.9 million appropriated by the Legislature for Fiscal Year 2010 to pay for it.

"Governor Barbour asked me to find a way to pay the Troopers the compensation they deserve without giving up the agency's discretion to manage its budget. Using the appropriated funds in this manner is consistent with the Governor's veto message and preserves my ability as DPS commissioner to manage the agency effectively," Simpson said.

In a June 30, 2009, message accompanying his veto of parts of Senate Bill 2014, Governor Barbour said Section 20 of the bill would severely restrict management authority within the Department of Public Safety and threaten forced cuts in other critical areas of the agency, such as the crime lab, the medical examiner, Bureau of Narcotics, and driver services. The governor stressed it is vital for the leadership of DPS to have the latitude to manage the agency.

Simpson said State Personnel Board approval of the reclassification would result in additional Trooper pay averaging \$2,500 to \$3,500 per year, but an individual Trooper's pay would vary based on rank and current compensation.

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